Matthews, Shailer (Dean, University of Chicago Divinity School) Feb 1918

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tDean, University of Chicago Divinity School
Feb 1918

282

February 1st., 1918

Dean Shailer Matthews,

Divinity School, University of Chicago.

Dear Dean Matthews:

It is very kind of you to ask me to be one of the preachers at Chatauqua during the coming summer, and I am sure that I should enjoy the visit. I am sorry, however, not to be able to reciprocate your courtesy in coming to us by accepting your invitation, but I have found it necessary to lay down a regulation for my own conduct with regard to preaching and have so constantly refused requests that I feel I must abide by my resolution. Indeed to do otherwise would be to get me into trouble. I should not know how to pick and choose. In any case it is not impossible that I may find it necessary to go to England for some months during the present summer.

We look back with great pleasure to your visit.

With kind regards from my wife and myself,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.